In the Claims

Claims 1-80 (Canceled).

81. (Previously Presented): A particle forming method comprising:

feeding a first set of precursors to a first energy application zone;

first applying energy to the first set of precursors in the first energy application zone effective to react and form solid particles from the first set of precursors;

ceasing application of any effective energy to the solid particles and feeding the solid particles and a second set of precursors to a second energy application zone;

second applying energy to the second set of precursors in the second energy application zone effective to react and form solid material about the solid particles from the second set of precursors;

at least one precursor being fed to at least one of the first and second energy application zones as a liquid.

82. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein the first and second applied energies are of a same type.

83. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein the first and second applied energies are different types.

84. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein at least one of the first and second applied energies comprises laser energy.

85. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein at least one of the first and second applied energies comprises a combustion flame.

86. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein at least one of the first and second applied energies comprises a plasma flame.

87. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein at least one of the first and second applied energies comprises photosynthesis.

88. (Previously Presented): A particle forming method comprising:

providing a reaction flow path comprising a plurality of energy application zones;

feeding a first set of precursors to a first in sequence of the energy application zones along the reaction flow path;

applying energy to the first set of precursors in the first in sequence of the energy application zones effective to react and form solid particles from the first set of precursors;

feeding the solid particles and a second set of precursors to a subsequent in sequence of the energy application zones along the flow path;

feeding an inert purge gas to the reaction flow path intermediate the first in sequence and the subsequent in sequence energy application zones; and

applying energy to the subsequent in sequence of the energy application zones effective to react and form solid material about the solid particles from the second set of precursors.

89. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein the applied energies are of a same type.

90. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein the applied energies are different types.

91. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein at least one of the applied energies comprises laser energy.

92. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein at least one of the applied energies comprises a combustion flame.

93. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein at least one of the applied energies comprises a plasma flame.

94. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein at least one of the applied energies comprises photosynthesis.

95. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein the first and second energy application zones are different.

96. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein the first and second energy application zones are the same.

97. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 wherein the first and second sets of precursors are different, the second applying forming a solid material coating over the solid particles which is different from material of the solid particles formed in the first applying.

98. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein one of said solid material or material of the solid particles formed in the first applying is electrically conductive and the other of said solid material or material of the solid particles formed in the first applying is electrically insulative.

99. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein said solid material is harder than the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying.

100. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein said solid material is softer than the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 97 wherein the first and second sets of precursors share at least one common precursor.

102. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein the solid material coating and the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying comprise different nitrides.

103. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein the first and second sets of precursors each comprise NH_3, and the solid material coating and the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying comprise different nitrides.

104. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein the first and second sets of precursors do not share any common precursor.

105. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying comprises SiO_2, and the solid material coating comprises an elemental metal.

106. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 97 wherein the material of the solid particles formed in the first applying comprise SiO_2, and the solid material coating comprises elemental tungsten.

107. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising forming a chemical mechanical polishing slurry using the solid particles after the second applying as at least a portion of a solid abrasive material within the slurry.

108. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein the inert purge gas is exhausted from the reaction flow path prior to the subsequent in sequence energy application zone.

109. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 108 wherein the inert purge gas is exhausted from the reaction flow path prior to feeding the second set of precursors to the reaction flow path.

110. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 88 wherein the inert purge gas flows through the subsequent in sequence energy application zone.